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MY FRIEND,

OR

Incidents in Life,

*Founded on Truth,*

A TRIFLE

FOR

CHILDREN.



LONDON:

PRINTED BY W. AND T. DARTON,

Corner of St. Andrew's-Court,

HOLBORN-HILL.

1810.

*Price One Shilling.*

Mary Sweeten.

Dock Book.

Nov. 8. 42. My  
Friend  
London.

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OR

## Incidents in Life,

*Founded on Truth,*

### A TRIFLE FOR CHILDREN.



*London: Published by Messrs. D. and J. Heath, The Proprietors, W. & T. DARTON, 15, Abchurch Lane.*

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1810.

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*Entered at Stationer's Hall.*

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# P R E F A C E.

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*Dear Children,*

*YOU that know the alphabet have the basis of all learning, and may by time and application, in reading, gain a general knowledge which it will be your own fault, if you do not turn to some good and useful purpose.*

*It is with the best intentions you are taught to read and write; your parents have found great advantages arising from the education they received whilst young, like unto yourselves, and are now desirous in their turn, to give no less to you, they are anxious to train your minds to every moral precept; to give you a knowledge of those things which tend to peace in this life, and happiness in the future.*

*With the good example and precepts of your superiors, I wish you to act as your friends advise and direct you, thus you will fulfill their best wishes, and if any thing herein contained be found to interest and instruct you, may you each claim or hail it "My Friend," I shall be amply repaid by the amusement afforded, and for the present subscribe myself, most devotedly, your friend,*

*The Author.*



*London, Published March 22<sup>nd</sup> 1810. by the Proprietors W & T Darton Esqrs No 71 St. Pauls Church Yard.*

**T**HE attachment of Dogs to their masters, and those of their household, has long characterised them emblems of fidelity. One morning as I was passing nearly opposite Somerset House, in the Strand, a lamplighter nimbly ran up his ladder to trim the lamp which was affixed close under the window of an opulent tradesman's house, when a large spotted dog, aroused by the noise of the ladder,

rushed furiously out at the window and commenced so ferocious a barking within the reach of the man's head, that he deemed it most prudent to retire, leaving the lamp to a more favourable opportunity, to the diversion of numerous passengers. Have you not seen, my little readers, these animals ever ready to rush forward on the approach of a stranger or enemy, to defend the property and persons of those, who, perhaps but a few moments before, chid or beat them for a misdemeanor? Yes, and I will venture to say, many of you have experienced the gratitude and caresses of these faithful animals, when perhaps, infant-like, unable to totter any longer, you have rolled on the carpet and found a favourite Dog as ready to play, as to be played with; wagging his tail, barking, and striving with his tongue, to lick your chubby cheeks.

Pincher was one of these faithful companions, and very often play-mate to little Ann, he would play and frisk about, and sometimes take her fingers in his mouth but he did not bite, he would cause sport to the rest of the family by his tricks with a favourite cat, which was not afraid of him, but often his companion. Sometimes he would want to play when, perhaps, it was not agreeable to pussy, and as he did not understand a gentle growl, she would give him a pat on the nose, which he used to take in good part, but when inclined for play they were as nimble as kittens; she would play as kittens do, and was often obliged to mew, from rather too hard a nibble of his extended jaws, which many a time have taken up her kittens and carried them to all parts of the house without hurt, as easy as he used to carry stones, that his young master, *Frank*, threw for him to fetch.



London. Published March 21. 1820. by the Proprietors W & T Dutton, Bell Court Hill.

Little children, imitate Pincher, (for though of the brute creation, animals give examples worthy men to imitate), be gentle in your actions, though like him, you have power, be attached to those about your persons, and let your affection and gratitude to your parents exceed *his* fidelity.



London Published March 21. 1849. by the Proprietors W. & T. Darton Holborn Hill.

### *On the want of Thought.*

A cheesemonger's boy who resided in Holborn, had been sent a few doors off with eggs and butter in a basket, attended by his master's child, a boy, about eighteen months old.

On his return, to please the child, as he thought, he placed him in the basket, then on his head, to carry as he used to carry, butser or cheese, but alas! the

little child moving itself, put the basket suddenly off its ballance, and the helpless infant fell at the careless boy's heels stunned and sorely bruised, on the stone flags.

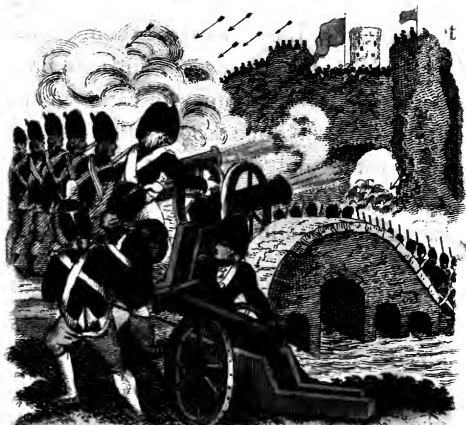
Before the boy had acted so, I fear he did not reflect what were likely to be the consequence, if he had, I think the perilous situation of the infant must have shewn itself.

This attention to causes and effects is justly termed fore-thought, and it is by attention to this the arts, manufactures, inventions and discoveries are attained ; in building a house, the foundation is generally laid deep in the earth, by this it stands many years longer than it would without it. In building the walls they must have a fore-thought of what they intend to build ; they must have a plan how and where every door, window and chimney is to be placed, or they would



be liable to build it without them ; then we should have houses wanting a door to enter at, or a chimney to carry off the smoke. Every one knows that houses have these and other conveniencies to render them complete, therefore, forethought and industry is only wanting to give the effect.

We are told the first discoverer of gunpowder was ignorant of its power or effect, and to try it, he placed a large stone over a quantity, which setting a spark to instantly deprived him of life. Experience has now fully proved its most dreadful effects ; the use of guns was in time had recourse to, and bows and arrows, which had been heretofore used to destroy man's fellow creature, were now laid aside, for the more certain method by gunpowder. Oh ! the havock, the horrors, that have been carried in all quarters of the globe by means of this ; the poor harmless natives of America, of



*London. Published March 21. 1810. by the Proprietors W. & T. Darton. Holborn Hill.*

the Indies, of the most distant isles, unacquainted of its effects were mowed down by hundreds; disorder and dismay were carried far into their country, and they are *now* termed more civilized.

We live in times when the cannon's roar rages with greater fury than ever it had done; whole armies have been destroyed; thousands of widows and children

have been afflicted. Those that use these weapons cannot be guided by reason or compassion, but by error, jealousy and pride, springing from the root of evil, whose only laws of *right* is *power*, they care not for the murderous and desolating effects so cruelly entailed.

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*The Sagacity and Courage of a Horse.*

AS a youth, in Surry, was riding in a light cart, without reins, with a truss or two of hay to feed a flock of sheep that were dependant on his care, the horse suddenly became restively prancing, shewing signs he wanted to be *off*; the youth seeing this alighted and seized him by the head but was not able to restrain him, as he set off full speed dragging the youth as he kept fast hold of him, until overcome by distance he fell, both wheels going over his body.



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By the time he had recovered himself the Horse had ran so far as to be on the brow of a steep hill; one wheel being much lower than the other, and the speed he was going at, overthrew the cart, breaking the shafts and harness, from which he extricated himself, and again set off full gallop to join a pack of fox hounds, which at that instant passed close before him; he continued the pur-

suit for several fields, when for want of a guide, he stopped, and was come up with by his driver.

He had heard the hounds at a distance, not perceptible to the youth, and who did not in the least suspect the original cause which excited him to start off to to join in a chace, that formerly he had been accustomed to.

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### *Some particulars of Bridges.*

Bridges have been long invented, and although they were originally very roughly made, they answered the purpose intended them, that those who had to pass over on foot could do so in comfort, without wet feet ; heavy goods by this invention were more quickly carried from one

side to the other, and to this day they are esteemed as a great convenience to those, who have not enough courage to go into a boat on the water.

Of these structures London, Blackfriars, and Westminster Bridges, are much noted for their length, architecture, and being the general means for the inhabitants of the vast metropolis, to cross the Thames. These bridges are of stone, but the foundation of London bridge is of wood, being trees driven down by the side of each other, at low water, into the bed of the river; which from their number, and being fastened together by iron bolts and screws, form a sufficient foundation for the masons to raise the bridge thereon.

London Bridge was first built of timber some time before the year 994, by a college of priests, to whom the profits of St. Mary Overy Ferry had descended.



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The stone bridge was begun, by Henry, in the year 1176, and finished by John, in 1209, the architect, was Peter, of Colechurch, a priest, who ill displayed his knowledge by forcing a river of 900 feet through arches, which below the sterlings have a passage of but 194 feet, so great a body of water necessarily forcing its way through, is similar in

violence to that of sluice gates, the difference in the height of water on one side the bridge to the other, being from 5 to 7 feet ; hence to small boats it is a very dangerous passage. Many lighters and craft from heavy lading or other causes have here instantaneously sunk with the whole of their cargoes.

But of late years we have bridges made of iron, which are durable and lightsome, and from the size of the different pieces which compose them, render them truly the wonder of art.

At the West India and London Docks as well as over many other public navigations, are swing bridges, which admit ships of many tons burthen to pass ; these are an improvement on the ancient draw bridge, which is generally found at the entrance of fortified towns.



About two miles below Chatham there is a floating bridge, formed by a number of shallow barges, boarded over, each side having posts and iron chains, it forms a secure carriage-way for troops and baggage waggons, to cross the Medway ; those parts that form the centre are moored to either side the river, until they are again wanted.

Formerly, almost all foot passengers, horses and carriages, were ferried over rivers, in large flat boats, or barges, called ferry boats, and still in various parts, where the water is too broad, or the traffic is not sufficient to pay the building of a bridge, we see chaise, carts, horses, a drove of sheep, oxen and passengers embark at the same time, from one shore to the other.



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*Honour, or the fatal effects of Duelling.*

WE have many accounts of human dwarfs, but most of them deformed some way or other, beside the smallness of their size; many relations also concerning dwarfs we must necessarily look upon to be fabulous, as well as those concerning giants. The following history, however, which we have reason to look

upon as authentic, is too remarkable not to be acceptable to the generality of our readers.

Jeffery Hudson the famous English dwarf, was born at Oakham, in Rutlandshire, in 1619; about the age of seven or eight being then but 18 inches high, he was retained in the service of the Duke of Buckingham, who resided at Burleigh on the Hill; soon after the marriage of Charles the First, the King and Queen being entertained at Burleigh, little Jeffery was served up to table in a cold pie, and presented to the queen who kept him as her dwarf.

From seven years of age to thirty he never grew taller, but after thirty he shot up to 3 feet 9 inches, and there fixed. Here Jeffery became a considerable part of the entertainment of the court. He had borne with little temper the teazings of the courtiers and domestics, and had

had many squabbles with the king's gigantic porter.

At last being provoked by a Mr. Crofts, a young gentleman of family, a challenge ensued, and Mr. Crofts coming to the rendezvous armed only with a squirt, the little creature was so enraged that a real duel ensued, and the appointment being on horseback, to put him more on a level, Jeffery with the first fire, shot his antagonist dead. This happened in France, whither he had attended his mistress during the troubles.

The actions of this man give a descriptive lesson, that to assume a dignity one is not competent to, is a dangerous pride which leads us into much misery ; thus Jeffery thought highly of his situation, his services, and perhaps of his person, which led him to those truly ridiculous ideas of *honour*, and to the dreadful alternative to destroy or be destroyed. Alas !



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to take away the life of a fellow creature, whom on a dispassionate reflection he would have gladly restored.

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### *The Soldier.*

ON the side of one of those verdant hills, which are so numerous in Dorsetshire, and which overlook populous vil-

lages in the valleys, resided a cleanly and frugal widow, who was left with an only son, the second eldest of the family, and two daughters. They were as may be naturally conceived, the joy of their poor mother, society and comfort in the hours of affliction. The sports of youth this little family exercised, and varied at inclination, which was at times excited by play-mates from the village in rusticity and innocence. Their widowed mother engaged them at intervals in any little thing there was to be done, and as they grew up she turned their attention to an education that was to be useful at a future time of life, and which they were happily enabled to receive by her great industry.

The boy, Jem Wild, for that was his name, went to service at a neighbouring farmers, at a salary barely enough to find him his shoes, where he toiled and made himself useful at what there was to be



done. In this situation he behaved himself well, and by his industry and attention he grew in repute with his master, and generally beliked by the whole family. His visits to his mother were sweet, for to him, home was home, however homely, and to enjoy the company of his sisters, was a sunday treat, who were now entering life also in servi-

tude. Jem had often been told to be at all times strictly honest, and in speaking, ever to tell the truth, of doing unto others as he would be done unto, and many other good precepts ; he had also an opportunity to know more by reading books, these he practised generally as well, indeed better than most lads ; but alas, this fair prospect was blighted by a vice that stole upon his actions and conduct, as unfelt as the blood that flowed through his veins, for, sad to tell, a restless disposition arising from an emulation, as he thought, *to do better for himself*, devolved to a sort of pride ; in short, being now about seventeen years of age, he thought he knew much ; in ploughing, reaping, digging, or other useful employ, he possibly knew as much as most lads of his years, but of the world he knew nothing, he was young and artless ; having changed his place of servitude he became dissatisfied, and he tried a third, which he had too much reason to find less to his mind than the one



he first left, and thus he continued, in an unsettled, devolving to an indolent state. His mother and his sisters he loved tenderly, but having deviated in a small degree, example and his own inclinations persuaded him to further sacrifices of his duty. When the young men of the village were speaking of industry, their mode of life, the state of servitude they were in, the wages they received in return; some one among them started the idea of making their fortunes, by taking the king's bounty, and entering for soldiers.

These silly youths had heard of honour, of fighting in their country's cause, and of the gentility of such a life, and above all, they were to see much of the country. They were to see the world, as they called it, they argued the most pleasant side, they forgot they would then be servants for life, and not servants for a year; that



they would have officers of different ranks, each requiring duty of them, exercising a discipline in one continued routine, and if not a severe one, this sameness would make it irksome. They had heard of battles, and of fields being won, but the thoughts of bleeding, in sore misery and fatigue, or of the instant deprivation of a life, of which they had already promised themselves a full share, did not

form any part of their discussion, nor indeed did they give it a thought, that taking away the life of a fellow creature, even in this way, who had in no wise offended was a capital offence to the laws of christianity : opposing the doctrine of HIM, who said, “ to him who smiteth thee on the right cheek turn to him the other also.”

With a headstrong set of youths nothing but realizing the *happiest* of their ideas was to be pursued, and after having given assurances they would accompany each other to the army, blindness and folly led them to commit themselves into the hands of a recruiting party, who came that way in search of such as these. The grief to a care-taking and affectionate mother and tender sisters, a step thus taken would occasion, was, alas ! also overlooked. When the sad news first reached his mother's ear, that he, with other



youths, were leaving the village with ribbands and cockades in their hats, she hastened, when the bustle of the villagers, who were out at their doors, each chatting with their neighbour, and repining at their folly, too forcibly announced the truth of the sad story, and then were seen parents, sisters, and friends in the greatest distress, upbraiding in their grief,

those who had hearts so destitute, the feelings of another's woe, as to allure them into so fatal an abyss.

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*The advantages of Swimming.*

English sailors certainly enjoy more comforts while at sea than those of any other nation, but even this is very prescribed.

Salted beef and pork, with hard baked brown bread, and buiscuit, forms their chief food at sea, which to live on any length of time, subjects them to the scurvy ; under the effects of this disorder, the crew under Captain Cook, who sailed round the world, mutined to return to land that they might procure vegetables and fresh water.

Whilst a vessel is in port, waiting

for partial repairs, taking in ballast or stores, the seamen enjoy these privileges. Under these circumstances one of the seamen belonging to his majesty's ship, *Eureus*, whilst laying in Cork Harbour, was bathing his child of about three years old from the boat that was along side, the little boy slipped from his hands to the inexpressible terror of his father, who not being able to swim, saw his child drowning before his face without the possibility of affording it any assistance.

In his consternation he seized an oar, with the extreme length of which he was able to reach the child, and place a few inches of the blade under its back, in which situation he kept it for some minutes, the child continuing miraculously buoyant on the water. The mother in this terrible moment seeing what had happened, a scene of frantic horror took place, much easier to be imagined than



related. While all was doubt, terror, and grief, a sailor, whom the cries of the parent had attracted to the side of the vessel, saw the perilous condition of the poor child, and being a good swimmer, he plunged from the gangway of the frigate into the water, and in a few minutes restored the child to its terrified and afflicted parents.

*A fatal instance of Cowardice.*

A gentleman who had been attending a meeting of the magistracy, at Kirby Moor Side, was returning home, he unhappily through the darkness of the night, lost the track of the road, and was with his horse, precipitated down a steep bank into the river Rye, the bed of which lies across the road.

The horse was found on the following afternoon, alive, in the river, having gained a footing on a bed of drifted sand, but the lifeless body of his master was not discovered till two days after. It appeared from certain traces in the bank, near to the place where the body was found, that the deceased had caught hold of a shelf of the bank with his hands, and also gained a slender footing; and was, while in this situation, heard repeatedly calling for assistance, by the inhabitants of a farm



house, at a short distance from the fatal spot, but alas ! he called without effect.

These people, from their own account, with the intent of affording assistance, went so near as to hear him say to himself, “ however here seems something coming with a lanthorn and candle,” yet a cowardly spirit suggested to them that this might be a decoy in order to murder and rob them, and under this impression they returned home and left the poor man to his fate, who, it seems, spent with the fatigue of maintaining the situation, it may be said with struggling in the gulph between life and eternity, had at length tumbled back in the river.

It will not be improper here to deprecate the conduct of these people, who thus neglected to relieve a fellow creature in the very extreme of distress, and earnestly caution others from being led away in future by a like childish fear.

How delightful would have been the reflection of having snatched this unfor-



fortunate person from an untimely and lamented death.

I should recommend youth to make a rule of endeavouring to discover the cause of whatever may accidentally alarm them. By this means they would get greater fortitude of mind, and might be able to give their assistance in cases of real danger.

The coachmen and guards to night and mail coaches often have accidents, owing to so many unfavourable circumstances

to contend with, in such situations presence of mind is very necessary; only think what they must have to brave through in a dark night, with bad roads, exposed to heavy rain or driving snow, which deprives them of all knowledge of the road, and a sharp piercing frost, benumbing every limb, whilst you little children are tucked up, with great care, comfortably warm in bed.

Consider awhile if there are not other objects whose sufferings also claim our compassion and assistance; yes, those children whom we daily see with their little stomachs but half filled, and that of the coarsest food, their bodies raggedly cloathed; with flesh seldom or never clean; their bed perhaps of straw, and that in a dark loathsome room.

Think then, happy child, and draw the true conclusion, that these things are not wholly given for you selfishly to enjoy;



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but that a full portion is due to these distressed poor.

That content is wealth is in many instances verified if we but look around us, the peasant, the ploughman or labourer, each in their turn enjoying themselves in their various situations, for where there is industry, there generally is health, and a contented mind occupied on industry is not likely to fall into evil practices, but

would breathe sentiments similar to what Dr. Watts has happily described,

“ In works of labour or of skill,

“ I would be busy too;

“ For satan finds some mischief still,

“ For idle hands to do.

“ In books or works, or healthful play

“ Let my first years be past,

“ That I may give for every day

“ Some good account at last.”

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*Humanity to the dumb species shews a heart of right feeling, and is very grateful when witnessed in a child.*

AS I was walking along a few days since in a bustling part of the town, my attention was arrested by some loud and repeated shouts, which came from the drovers of a flock of harmless sheep that had been brought to Smithfield, and there sold, after suffering under many alarms and privations of food and water. The noise of whirling chariots and carri-

ages of every description, and the prevailing bustle on either side had caused one of them to stray from the drove, when the men to save themselves trouble, set their dogs on after it, and being three or four of them they soon seized it by the throat, and throwing it down, tore off the wool in a sad brutal manner. But as it happened the poor sufferer had a friend soon near, for a gentleman's servant, who was riding a fine animal of a horse, seeing its situation came up full trot, and with a stick in his hand beat off the dogs; the sheep finding itself thus at liberty instantly ran for farther protection into a shop much crowded with customers, making its way through the midst of them to the farthest end of it, and was with great trouble they could get the poor animal into the street again.

There can be no doubt but providence has bountifully supplied us with food and raiment through these animals, and that they are for our necessary support; but humanity enjoins that they are to be



treated well or deprived of life as quickly as may be.

I would wish you, children, to recollect what alarm you feel, if a dog does but bark out loud at you and comes pretty close, without taking you by the ear, by the throat, or the leg, how you cringe and cry out! Upon this reflection I doubt not but you would be of a humane disposition enough to try and rescue a poor sheep, or other dumb animal, when suffering in the hands of cruel men, or surrounded by fierce dogs.

As a sailor, who had had the misfortune to lose his left leg, by a fall from the round top of his vessel, was crossing some fields near London, where the styles were troublesome for him, in his mutilated state to get over, and being aged, (to use his own expressions,) "time and a deal of hard service had rendered him very unfit for the task;" having crossed many of them in safety yet he found one, too much for him at last, for in the attempt he fell with his disabled limb so entangled in the style, and his body so situate, that he could not disengage or in any way assist himself.

There were many characters passing to and fro, though not immediately on the spot, and who saw his situation but passed on, not caring to step out of their way to the poor fellow's assistance. At length a young gentleman came near, who discovering him in this situation, ran up and released his wooden leg from the style, and set him firm on his legs.



The sailor thankful for his deliverance exclaimed, "thank ye, kindly, master for your assistance; for although I have been at sea nearly all my life, have been in all parts of the world, and fought in my country's cause, yet never was I so totally overcome as by these simple means."

How long he might have laid in this situation *but* for this amiable youth, no one can tell; but this we can plainly tell from the youth's actions, that he was sensible of his duty to a fellow creature however low of birth or condition and like a good Samaritan, his assistance was not withheld in the moment of distress, but given as the *world would describe it*, with an amiable *condescension*.

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GEORGE and his sister were children of nine and ten years of age, who went to pass the day on a visit to their cousin, which they closed by an evenings diver



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sion of looking over a folio of prints, but George discovered one that interested him more than any of the rest, and led him to make many enquiries.

It was an old print from Fox's Book of Martyrs, representing some of the cruel tortures the martyred christians had suffered. He had heard of punishing wicked people for theft and other great crimes, but he was surprised while he listened with attention, that formerly, men, women, and children, were impri-

soned and tortured to death in various cruel ways, for acting a good part; for reading in the Bible, or declaring the doctrine of our great MASTER, so fully set forth in the New Testament.

They were instruments to prove in their life and martyrdom, the sustaining power of an almighty on the souls of the sufferers, and like the great CHRISTIAN PATTERN, they suffered the scoffs, irritations, and cruelty of their enemies, with meekness and a resignation to the cross of their crucified Saviour.

Under this influence they *could not return evil for evil*, but suffered themselves to be led like a lamb to the slaughter, declaring aloud their belief, and praying in the moment of severe torture for the good of their enemies.

While we of the present day live in a country where religious sentiments are tolerated, and such ample means have been used to give to children of all nations a *look* our ancestors were formerly ill treat-

ed for having in their houses, and at a time when so much attention is paid to education, ought we not highly to value and be thankful for such advantages?

We are told by many authors that blinding was a species of punishment anciently inflicted on thieves, adulterers, purjurers, and others, from which the ancient christians were not exempt by means of lime and vinegar, or barely scalded vinegar until the ball of the eye was consumed, and this was varied by red hot iron plates being placed before them until their coats was shrivelled up and blindness was produced. The Apolonians executed it when found asleep on their watch.

These punishments were first abolished in Britain and France by the introduction of whipping or flogging in its stead.

In civilized life a regular system of government must be kept up to maintain order and honesty in society, to this end moderate punishment is practised.



But children who pay attention to what good people and their friends direct them, will not stand in need of corporal punishment, and who, if they notice the *suffering in mind* of those who have done wrong, will show wisdom in judging of them as charitably as possible, but at the same time let their error be a way mark to steer by, that you may avoid the many sands and shoals in life that bring ruin and destruction.

Let us justly appreciate the advantages

of education which enable us to read the bible and other good books, and let us lift our hearts with gratitude to the giver of every good that HIS spirit has so far overcome error as to stop the ravages of cruel persecution, who teacheth us to love our neighbour as ourselves, to do unto all men as ye would be done unto, that in all transactions there may be charity and love.

Do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with thy God, so shall this conduct as its more widely diffused, tend to universal peace, when the sword shall be beaten into plough shares, and the spear into pruning hooks, and man learn war and contention no more.

FINIS.

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London: Printed by W. and T. Darton,  
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